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Step into Leonardo's shoes

by Christine Kearney



Brian Freeman and Susan White

Participants attending a unique drawing workshop at UNSW this month will be invited to step into Leonardo da Vinci's shoes for a weekend.

The weekend workshop, run by anatomy lecturer Brian Freeman and internationally exhibited artist Susan White, gives the public the chance to draw human specimens from the University's medical sciences lab.

Freeman and White, who are married, are the perfect duo for the workshops – Freeman's expertise in anatomy and White's experience in figurative art combine the very skills that made da Vinci such a giant in both medicine and art.

"We tell participants that Leonardo combined both, he was a scientist and an artist and since Leonardo there have been almost no individuals who have combined their art and the anatomy side, so us working as a team is the next best thing we could come up with," says White.

While White is able to coach the students in drawing the human form, which has been a major inspiration for her own work, Freeman explains anatomical structure and function.

"One of the things that struck us is that anatomy can explain surface bumps on the body by muscles underneath, but the hollows and dimples on the body also have a reason and we find that we can impart that knowledge to the artist as well when looking at the specimens." "In art school you spend years doing life drawing but never understanding the underlying structures and movements of muscles that form those shapes," adds White.

"Drawing to me is a foundation of my art and it's so important to understand perspective and proportion, foreshortening, all those aspects which have been out of fashion since the early 1960s," she says.

"These workshops bring the drawers out of the woodwork, it is amazing how many good drawers there are in the community.

"We've had jewellers, sculptors and ceramic artists, an architect in his eighties, two cartoonists; we've had people come out from the Netherlands and the UK, and enquiries from a professor in America," she says.

The workshop will be held October 25–26. Check www.leonardosshoes.com and www.susandwhite.com.au

Student gala concert

The school of music and music education is hosting an inaugural student gala concert on Thursday, October 9.

"The concert will provide an opportunity for some of the school's most outstanding young musicians to perform in the superb acoustic setting of the Sir John Clancy Auditorium," said music performance unit coordinator, Kristen Butchatsky.

It will feature recent Sony scholarship winners, pianists Jonathon Ong and Theresa Leung, and oud player, Joseph Tawadros.

The concert will also incorporate the school's best chamber ensembles, and will feature works by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Bartok and Prokofiev.

The free inaugural Student Gala Concert will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 9 in the Clancy Auditorium.



Best in show at Kenso

Untitled by Grant Sleeman, from, *Kenso On Show*, the inaugural art exhibition of UNSW's Kensington Colleges.

Sleeman took out first prize in the individual works category for Goldstein College. Judges Ian Howard, dean of COFA, Ian Walker, principal fellow of the Kensington Colleges, and Lisa Sutherland, senior fellow for Baxter College awarded Alexa Muratore first prize for Basser College and Joanna Mycroft first prize for Baxter College. Baxter College won the prize for the best mural.

Kenso On Show was organised by college students during Arts Weeks last month.